

REPORT

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, with statement of the quantity of public land secured by claimants under acts of Congress granting pre-emptions, &c.

MAY 14, 1836.—Read,

MAY 19, 1836.—Ordered to be printed

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

May 12, 1836.

SIR: In obedience to the resolution of the Senate of the 20th ultimo, directing me to report "the quantity of public lands secured by claimants under the various acts of Congress granting pre-emptions," &c., I have the honor herewith to transmit a report from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to whom the resolution was referred.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. M. VAN BUREN,
*V. P. of the U. S., and
President of the Senate.*

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

May 10, 1836.

SIR: In obedience to a resolution of the Senate of the United States, passed on the 20th ultimo, which has been referred to this office, and which is in the following words, viz.: "*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to ascertain and report to the Senate, with as little delay as practicable, the quantity of the public lands of the United States secured by claimants under the various acts of Congress granting pre-emptions, since the adoption of the cash system, specifying in said report the quantity so secured each year," I have the honor to transmit the enclosed statement, which affords the information called for, so far as the abstracts of sales made at the several district land offices, from which this statement is principally prepared, afford the means of discriminating

between the lands secured by purchasers under the pre-emption laws and those bought at private sale.

The district land officers have been directed, in latter years, to distinguish the pre-emption cases in those returns; but it is found that observance of this order has not been without exception. The registers in the General Land Office of purchases in several districts are greatly in arrear; and the detection of every omission of this sort would require the examination of an immense mass of certificates, that cannot yet be speedily accomplished without a suspension of much current duty, too pressing to be long deferred; while circumstances seem to forbid so long a delay in complying with the resolution as would be required to render this exposition quite perfect.

This statement is believed to fall short of the quantity of land entered by virtue of the pre-emption privilege, during the period since the commencement of the cash system; but it is submitted as the nearest approximation to exactness that can be attained by the means in the power of this office, without the dilatory scrutiny alluded to, which, it is apprehended, would retard this report too long for the purposes of the Senate during the present session.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ETHAN A. BROWN,

Commissioner.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Statement showing the quantity of land which appears to have been annually secured under pre-emption laws in the several States and Territories, from the 1st July, 1820, to the year 1835, inclusive, and including the returns, so far as received, for the year 1836.

States and Territories.	1820.	1821.	1822.	1823.	1824.	1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ohio - - -									
Indiana - - -									
Illinois - - -									
Missouri - - -									
Alabama - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,280.00
Mississippi - - -	676.54								
Louisiana - - -	-	1,286.82	80,195.05	345.82	6,879.05	-	7,159.71		
Michigan Territory - -									
Arkansas Territory - -	-	-	18,002.64	-	1,224.62	222.95	1,068.54		
Florida Territory - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,066.05	19,466.55	4,227.56
Total -	676.54	1,286.82	98,197.69	345.82	8,103.67	222.95	43,294.30	19,466.55	5,507.56

STATEMENT—Continued.

States and Territories.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ohio - - -	-	-	27,046.72	3,102.97	-	38.00	-	-
Indiana - - -	-	4,308.47	36,163.40	11,934.76	-	15,505.26	34,852.35	1,583.37
Illinois - - -	-	25,707.98	15,560.74	11,526.18	2,972.33	30,869.60	224,275.12	13,771.22
Missouri - - -	-	878.36	2,992.88	263.54	40.00	9,314.56	19,821.00	314.00
Alabama - - -	-	184,762.54	427,717.69	9,641.36	11,658.95	338,985.05	12,638.82	13,760.62
Mississippi - - -	-	1,735.60	17,359.70	4,289.60	-	196,293.11	51,384.58	5,321.54
Louisiana - - -	320.00	15,368.47	21,885.50	7,331.61	11,701.05	11,294.12	159,450.40	48,709.01
Michigan Territory - - -	-	6,192.95	2,237.58	1,374.99	693.93	4,362.67	37,044.81	-
Arkansas Territory - - -	326.28	860.41	3,686.77	506.16	4,690.53	29,240.56	35,469.77	28,743.41
Florida Territory - - -	1,976.75	3,165.00	3,189.36	-	-	1,692.66	-	639.76
Total - - -	2,623.03	242,979.78	557,840.34	49,971.17	31,756.79	637,597.59	574,936.85	112,842.93

Aggregate of the foregoing, 2,387,650.38 acres.

Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837